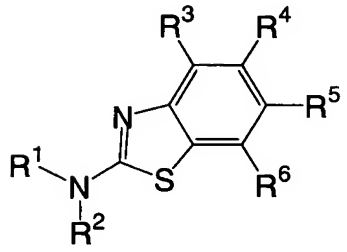
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A diazonium salt represented by the following general formula (1):

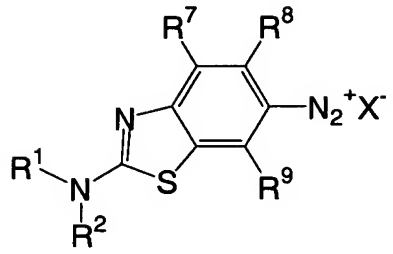
General formula (1)



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; and R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a diazonio group, and at least one of R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 represents the diazonio group.

2. The diazonium salt according to claim 1, and represented by the following general formula (2):

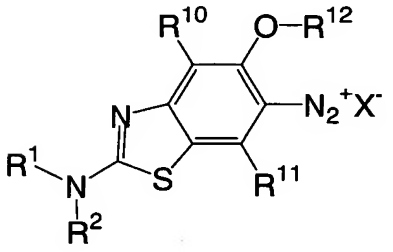
General formula (2)



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; R^7, R^8 and R^9 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; and X^- represents an anion.

3. The diazonium salt according to claim 1, and represented by the following general formula (3):

General formula (3)

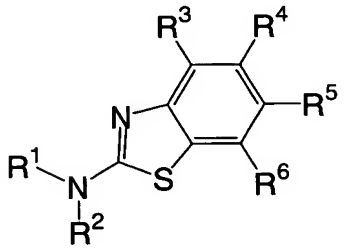


wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl

group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; R^{10} and R^{11} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and X^- represents an anion.

4. A thermal recording material comprising, on a support, a thermal recording layer containing a coupler and a diazonium salt represented by the following general formula (1):

General formula (1)

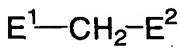


wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; and R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio

group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a diazonio group, and at least one of R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 represents the diazonio group.

5. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the coupler is a compound represented by the following general formula (4) or a tautomer thereof:

General formula (4)



wherein E^1 and E^2 each independently represents an electron withdrawing group, and E^1 and E^2 may be linked each other to form a ring.

6. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the diazonium salt is encapsuled in microcapsules.

7. The thermal recording material according to claim 6, wherein walls of the microcapsules include at least one of polyurethane and polyurea as a constituent.

8. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes an organic base.

9. The thermal recording material according to claim 8, wherein the organic base is used in an amount of 0.1 to 30 parts by weigh with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

10. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a color forming aid.

11. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a free radical generating agent.

12. The thermal recording material according to claim 11, wherein the free radical generating agent is used in an amount of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

13. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes a vinyl monomer.

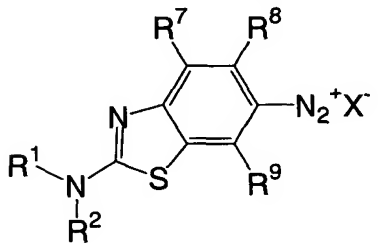
14. The thermal recording material according to claim 13, wherein the vinyl monomer is used in an amount of 0.2 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 1 part by mass of the diazonium salt.

15. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein at least one of a light transmittance control layer and a protective layer is disposed on the thermal recording layer.

16. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the thermal recording layer includes the diazonium salt represented by the general formula (1) in an amount of 0.02 to 5 g/m^2.

17. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the diazonium salt is represented by the following general formula (2):

General formula (2)

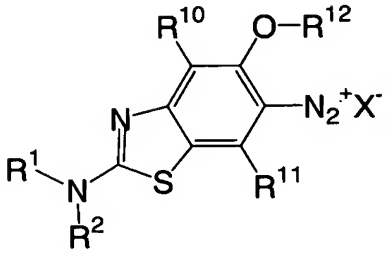


wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; R^7, R^8 and R^9 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; and X^- represents an anion.

18. The thermal recording material according to claim 17, wherein the thermal recording layer includes the diazonium salt represented by the general formula (2) in an amount of 0.02 to 5 g/m^2.

19. The thermal recording material according to claim 4, wherein the diazonium salt is represented by the following general formula (3):

General formula (3)



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a carbamoyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be linked each other to form a ring; R^{10} and R^{11} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group or an arylsulfonyl group; R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; and X^- represents an anion.

20. A thermal recording material according to claim 19, wherein the thermal recording layer includes the diazonium salt represented by the general formula (3) in an amount of 0.02 to 5 g/m^2.